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## Maine NOW Times (May 1986)

National Organization of Women - Maine State Conference Staff

*National Organization of Women - Maine State Conference*

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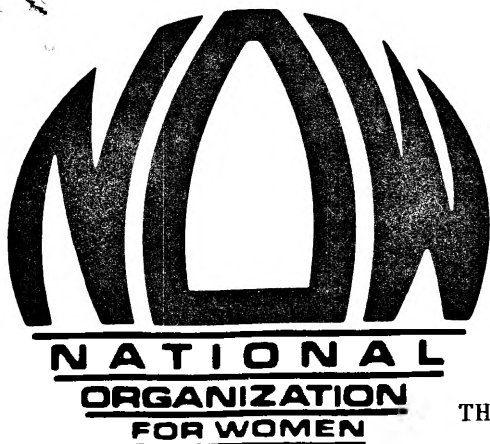
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# MAINE NOW TIMES

MAY 1986

THE OBSCENITY REFERENDUM

VOTE NO ON THE OBSCENITY REFERENDUM ON JUNE 10

Maine NOW PAC urges you to vote against the anti-obscenity proposal on the June 10 ballot. JoAnne Dauphinee has written the following addressing some of the issues surrounding this question.

## ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS DON'T WORK

Even if your goals are modest, even if you just want to get the worst of the hard-core porn out of sight, anti-obscenity laws just plain don't work. There are at least 35 federal, and dozens of state and local anti-obscenity laws. Many people are intimidated. Many things get censored. But the \$8 billion porn industry goes on undisturbed.

## ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS ARE CUMBERSOME, COSTLY, AND TIME-CONSUMING

In order to prosecute one seller (but not all of the sellers) of one particular issue (but not all the issues) of one specific magazine, we must: commit the time, energy, and resources of the police to set up a good case; tie up court time, personnel and tax dollars to prosecute the case; and, find space in already overcrowded prison facilities to house the criminals. Stopping porn by this method is like hiring a team of lumberjacks to clear the forest one leaf at a time.

## ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS ENDANGER ART, LITERATURE AND THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS - ESPECIALLY SEXUAL INFORMATION

It is no accident that censorship laws are misdirected. These laws are an open invitation to groups such as Eagle Forum and Citizens for Decency, whose favorite targets include feminist and "humanist" works, sex education materials, birth control information, pro-choice advocacy, sexual self-help books, anything promoting or containing minority sexual views, and anything promoting or assuming that sex should be for pleasure as well as for procreation. If this is not enough to concern us, consider that the rightwing censors are after Mark Twain, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, Stephen King, and even William Shakespeare.

## ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT OF THEIR ALLEGED PURPOSE

Not only do censorship laws threaten the very materials designed to disarm the power of porn (by lifting the veil of sexual misinformation, sex education materials and family planning work to disarm porn), censorship laws divert both our resources and our attention away from far more promising approaches to a sexually healthier and happier society. Through laws, public education, and redirecting resources, we in Maine have established that we will no longer tolerate the battering, rape, or abuse of women and children. We are committed to giving our children access to sexual knowledge and the means to practice safe sexual activity when they have chosen to be sexually active. Censorship laws never built a battered women's shelter or put a rape hotline into action. Anti-obscenity laws never taught a child how to say "no" to sexual abuse, or taught a teenage girl how to prevent pregnancy until she chooses to have children. Setting loose the censors will threaten our ability to share sexual information and to expose sexual abuse. It is in this conspiracy of ignorance that pornography thrives. To oppose censorship IS to oppose pornography.

## ANTI-OBSCENITY LAWS WILL NOT STOP VIOLENCE OR VIOLENT IMAGES AGAINST WOMEN - THE APPLES AND ORANGES SYNDROME

Anti-obscenity laws deal primarily with sexual explicitness and its offensiveness to the moral sensibilities of the community's average citizen. Research by Neil Malamuth, Edward Donnerstein, Dan Linz, and others state clearly that if we are talking about "sexually explicit materials...one would have to conclude that there is no evidence for any 'harm' related effects." Depictions of violence against women, especially "prime time" images on TV and films are more clearly linked to negative behavior.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN, INDEPENDENT OR EVEN UNREGISTERED\*,

THERE IS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR YOU TO GO TO THE POLLS ON JUNE 10TH.

VOTE NO ON THE OBSCENITY REFERENDUM.

\* You can register to vote on the day of the primary at your city/town hall and you need not enroll in a party to vote on this referendum.

THE GOVERNOR'S PRIMARY RACE

by Marilyn Kirby

Maine NOW Political Action Committee (MNP) has interviewed four of the seven candidates running in the June 10 primary for Governor in the Democratic and Republican Parties. Based on personal interviews, newspaper reports, and voting records as available, MNP has prepared a brief outline of the candidates' positions on a few issues of concern to NOW.

Maine NOW PAC has decided not to endorse any of the candidates in the primary races for governor. As you will see, some of the candidates are better than others on our issues, but we don't see a remarkable difference among them to feel comfortable singling out one for our endorsement over the others.

The information that we share with you below is for education purposes only - designed to stimulate your interest in the primary as it will affect our feminist agenda. We urge you to become involved and to question the candidates yourself for a better understanding of their views on issues of concern to you.

After the primary results are in, MNP will again try to arrange meetings with the gubernatorial candidates - including Independent candidates - and will publish the results prior to the November election.

	Severin Beliveau (D)	G. William Diamond (D)	Dave Redmond (D)	Joseph Ricci (D)	James Tierney (D)	Porter Leighton (R)	John McKernan (R)
Anti-obscenity Referendum	opposes	opposes see note #1	opposes	opposes	opposes	supports	supports
Comparable Worth/ Pay Equity	supports	supports	supports	supports	supports	???	supports
Lesbian/Gay Rights	see note #2	supports	supports	supports	see note #3	opposes	opposes
Reproductive Choice "supporting a woman's right to choose"	pro- choice	pro- choice	pro- choice	pro- choice	pro- choice	anti- choice	pro- choice

## Notes:

- #1 Bill Diamond is the only candidate who has taken a leadership role in opposing the anti-obscenity referendum.
- #2 Severin Beliveau stated that "full access to employment for homosexuals should be weighed on a case-by-case basis."
- #3 James Tierney said "he would oppose expanding the Human Rights Act to cover homosexuals, but would issue an executive order banning discrimination within State Government."

**STATE COORDINATOR'S REPORT**  
by Marge Clark, Maine NOW State Coordinator

I write this in the early morning hours, just back from the first day of the State Democratic Convention. I got some campaign hints, felt warmly received by my future house colleagues, chatted with several gubernatorial candidates, and best of all, was treated to a marvelous 40th birthday dinner by JoAnne Dauphinee.

I drove home reminiscing about good friends and sisterhood and the many important women in my life. If I were not leaving at the crack of dawn to help my mother-in-law celebrate her 80th birthday, I would be tempted to share some of those memories with you.

But I will ask you instead to revive your own herstory and use it as a springboard to action.

**VOTE NO**, on the obscenity referendum June 10th. Do it for yourself - we don't need Jasper Wyman and his friends telling us what we can and cannot read. Do it for your lesbian friends - material that encourages us to accept and rejoice in ourselves as sexual beings will be under attack early. Do it for your daughters - they need access to good birth control information.


**VOTE YES**, for the feminist candidates of your choice. If there isn't one, do a write-in in protest - and start now looking for someone to run in 1988.

**SEND IN YOUR PAC CONTRIBUTIONS**. There are some exciting races this year and we need your dollars to have maximum impact.

For yourself, for the women who came before us, and for those who will follow us, get involved in the political process. **Your vote does count.**

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**JUNE 10 - - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**

It's voting time, once again. Here is a fine opportunity to practice marking the boxes ☒ or flipping the switches  at your local polling place. All elections are

important, and this primary is no exception. The choices we have in November are often determined by the results of primary elections. So find out about the candidates in your area - - and then **vote**.

Each election year the Maine NOW Political Action Committee collects information on all the candidates for the Maine State Legislature on issues of concern to feminists. The Maine NOW PAC seeks to learn the candidates' positions on such issues as reproductive rights, the ERA, lesbian/gay rights, and domestic violence, among others.

There are over 180 seats up for grabs, so to speak, in the Legislature. However, not all of the seats are being contested. As of this writing, the Maine NOW PAC has made the following endorsements:

Senate District #24:	Donald Lipfert (D)	Woolwich, Arrowsic, Bowdoin
House District #23:	Cushman Anthony (D)	South Portland
House District #25:	Anne Rand (D)	Portland
House District #70:	Margaret Clark (D)	Brunswick, Lisbon, Auburn
House District #83:	James Perry (D)	Camden, Rockport
House District #123:	Glenith Gray (D)	Sedgwick, Castine

All of these candidates deserve our support. The Maine NOW PAC may make additional endorsements before June 10. For more information on these races or any others, call JoAnne at 989-3306 (Brewer) or Marilyn at 761-1601 (Portland).

**DON'T FORGET - - - - GET OUT AND VOTE ON JUNE 10**

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**A FEW WORDS OF THANKS**  
by Christine Torraca

On behalf of all members of Maine NOW, I would like to thank a group of people who have gathered together on a fairly regular basis (about as often as you receive this newsletter) to perform a tedious and generally thankless task. These folks have spent hours risking paper cuts and errant staple injuries collating, stapling, labeling, counting and bundling the MAINE NOW TIMES and other sundry mailings every 8-10 weeks for the last three years (at least). Believe it or not most of the time we even have fun doing it. But it is not a glamorous job, nor is it one which might be readily identifiable as a feminist activity. But I submit to you that the hours spent on our mailings are every bit as important as time spent lobbying politicians or appearing before the media. For the work in getting out this newsletter is aimed at getting out "our word", educating our members and other readers on our issues, our goals, our philosophy, our vision for a feminist future. And there is no more important work than that.

So, THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU.....

MERRIE ALLEN, ANNIE LUNT, SANDY LARLEE, JANET ROBINSON, CARA GUERRIERI, PEGGY ELATH, PHIL OAK, MERLE OAK, MARILYN KIRBY, PAM LINDSEY, NANCY DIBNER, FRANCIS OWEN, ELAINE RIESENBERG, MARIAN ROMANO, ASHLEY ROLAND, (I hope I didn't forget anyone, if I have, I'm sorry. You don't have to come next time!!)

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## MAINE NOW STATE CONFERENCE

The Maine NOW State Conference will be held in Brunswick on September 27, 1986. It promises to be a truly exciting day. Ellie Smeal, President of NOW, will be the keynote speaker of our conference, and the Bowdoin Women's Association at Bowdoin College is planning to present Robin Morgan, feminist author and activist (her latest book is Sisterhood is Global), as an evening speaker. We are just beginning to put together the series of workshops to be held during the day. They will include a wide range of topics from Consciousness Raising to Non-Violence and Feminism (by Sheila Garrett) to Art Therapy and Empowering Women (by Nan Ross) to Women's History in the Penobscot Indian Nation (by Sadie Mitchell and Priscilla Attean), and much more. Mark it on your calendar and come have fun. Child care will be provided. Watch for more news in the next Maine NOW Times.

If you are interested in sharing your expertise with us by leading a workshop, or know someone who might, please contact Jill Paperno Standish, 14 Oak Ridge Road, Brunswick ME 04011 (729-4735) with the following information:

Workshop presenter(s)  
Address and phone  
Name of or idea for the workshop  
Length of time needed to present the workshop  
Resources needed (audio-visual equipment, etc.)

**Don't forget to mark the date on your calendars...Saturday, September 27, in Brunswick.**

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(Note from the editor: The following piece was submitted several months ago for inclusion into an earlier issue of THE MAINE NOW TIMES. The topic has not gone out of date, so I am presenting it now. If we had a column called "Letters to the Editor" or maybe "Letters to the Membership" that is where I would put this. Ed.: C. Torraca)

**Pro-Choice versus Pro-Abortion Language: Which is Appropriate for NOW?**

by Charlene Rydell, Brunswick Area NOW, State Legislator

At the State NOW Conference in November (1985), I strongly supported the resolution proposed by Liz Crandall of Brunswick which asked Maine NOW to go on record in favor of retaining the present "pro-choice" language. (see editor's note below) For me, the terminology "pro-abortion" is both too narrow a focus and not descriptive of what I believe NOW's position on reproductive rights has been and should continue to be.

The pro-choice language sends a strong message that NOW supports a woman's right to choose an abortion and that this medical procedure should be available to all women regardless of where they live or their social and economic status. Pro-choice language, however, also means that NOW supports a woman's right to bear her child. NOW has a responsibility to both groups of women. It is appropriate that the National Organization for Women take a leading role in advocating for economic and social support programs, including financial, housing, child care, education and training, that would make it possible for all women to have a real choice. Maine NOW has reaffirmed its pro-choice stand, and my hope is that our organizational affiliates across the country will work actively at the state and federal levels to guarantee the reproductive rights of all women.

(Editor's note: At issue at the conference was a move on the part of some NOW affiliates to use such phrases as "pro-abortion" to describe NOW's position on reproductive rights, as opposed to phrases such as "pro-choice".)

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**SPINSTERS PEACE ACTION NETWORK (SPAN)** seeks to weave lively connections among women while unraveling the patriarchy, which in its many forms (sexism, racism, militarism, industrialism...) is waging war on all life on the planet. SPAN currently has particular interest in direct efforts to challenge the routine preparations for nuclear genocide that are now taking place in at least thirteen Maine communities. Some of these communities where the unthinkable has become normal, are: Limestone, with Loring Air Force Base and its 210 nuclear weapons; Caribou, which has a Global Command and Control Station; Cutler, with the VLF submarine communications facility; Brunswick, where the Naval Air Station holds approximately 100 nuclear warheads. (See Nuclear Battlefields, by Arkin and Fieldhouse, pp. 190-191).

Women are invited to join in brainstorming about SPAN's projects for 1986-87. Contact MaryLois, P.O. Box 3051, Brewer ME 04412.

# MAINE STATEWIDE YELLOW PAGES

Are you trying to locate a women's group or a peace group or another grassroots group in your area? Is there an older person nearby who could use legal assistance or the support of a senior citizens organization? Do you want to locate groups and resources in opposition to environmental pollution, domestic violence, or U.S. involvement in Central America? And how about organizations working toward more agricultural self-reliance or children's advocacy or personal growth?

The Maine Statewide Yellow Pages will provide this and much more information about over 600 grassroots, progressive, service, and social change organizations throughout the state of Maine. The Yellow Pages has included each group in one of 32 categories - including "Arts", "Children", "Peace", "Women", and "World Affairs". It is indexed both alphabetically and by county.

The entry on each group includes a mailing address, telephone number, contact person, and a brief description of its purposes and activities, including any newsletters or other publications. Many groups are cross-referenced, as they easily fall into more than one category.

The Maine Statewide Yellow Pages, 55 pages in length, is published by INVERT (Institute for Nonviolence Education, Research, and Training), which also puts out the Maine Statewide Newsletter, a monthly compilation of progressive and social change activities and events in the state of Maine. Copies of the Yellow Pages are available for a recommended donation of \$2.50 (postage paid), with lower prices available for two or more copies. To order, contact INVERT, PO Box 110, Stillwater, ME 04489, or call 827-3107.

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## CONFERENCE TO RAISE YOUNG WOMEN'S INTEREST IN SCIENCE AND MATH

Young women entering grades 7 thru 12 are invited to a special conference, "Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics," on Saturday, June 21, from 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM, at Westbrook College in Portland. Parents are encouraged to accompany their daughters. There are three basic goals of this conference:

- \* To increase young women's interest in mathematics and science;
- \* To foster awareness of career opportunities for women in mathematics and science-related fields;
- \* To provide students an opportunity to meet and form personal contacts with women in traditionally male occupations.

Over 12,000 young women from junior and senior high schools throughout the country will be attending the eleventh annual "Expanding Your Horizons..." career education conferences. The students and about 2500 parents, teachers and counselors will gather on 63 college and university campuses across the United States. An additional 2500 people will be involved in the planning process at the various sites.

"Hands-on" workshops, lively panel presentations, and career information discussions by women in math- and science-based careers are featured at the "Expanding Your Horizons..." conferences. Female engineers, electricians, physicists, computer scientists, carpenters, geologists, and architects will participate as conference planners as well as role models. They will discuss their work in detail, create problem-solving activities, and answer questions about their educational preparation and the importance of high school math and science courses.

A panel discussion by Maine women employed in "Non-traditional Careers for Women" will describe their work day, school experiences, and home life. Morning workshops will offer hands-on activities in science and math such as identification of common substances, "Getting to Know Your Friendly Computer," and math games. After lunch, they will break up into groups for career discussions and more information from professional women and college science or math majors. Special workshops are being planned for accompanying parents and teachers on "Choosing and/or Funding Post-secondary Education", or "Family Math" as well as showings of videotapes including: "Nothing But Options" and "Math Anxiety: We Beat It, So Can You."

Advance registration is requested since participation will be limited. Overnight accommodations are being offered at cost by the college. A fee of \$10 will be charged to help defray costs of lunch, snacks, and materials. Brochures with registration forms are being mailed to junior and senior high schools. Interested students and their teachers or parents can write or call for registration forms (if they are not available at the school) to Catherine Van Dyke, Director, Maine Career Education Consortium, State House Station 71, Augusta, ME 04333, or call 289-2331.

continued...

(Editor's note: I will be there talking about my life in data processing as a Computer Programmer and a Systems Analyst. It sounds like a well planned conference worth attending by or recommending to any young women making decisions about junior high and senior high school classwork. C. Torraca)

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### KATE CLINTON PERFORMANCE

Approximately 500 people packed into the First Parish Unitarian Church in Portland on April 19 to watch Kate Clinton, feminist humorist, perform. Her show was great - she had us rolling in the aisles with laughter. She poked fun at us, in all parts of our lives, and helped us to see, as she put it, that "she who laughs, lasts." The proceeds of the performance were to benefit Maine NOW PAC and Fred Berger's campaign for Portland City Council. The two groups split about \$1300. It was a very successful night. Thanks to all who helped make it happen.

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### NORTHEAST REGIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

The Northeast Regional Conference was held April 4 and 5, in New Haven, CT. The usual round of workshops was held. A special guest was Tracy Thurman. Thurman is a victim of battering who sued the police department in her city (in Connecticut) for failing to protect her from the violence of her former husband. She is now partially paralyzed and suffers numerous other physical handicaps as a result of the last attack (most of which occurred while the police were at the scene). She won her case. Conference participants viewed a videotape of an ABC 20/20 segment on Thurman's story and heard from Thurman's lawyer. Tracy herself then spoke to us briefly and was then presented an award from NOW honoring her for her courage and strength. We were filled with awe and sadness and rage all at the same time. It was a truly moving moment.

As you know, elections for National Board representatives were held at this conference. "Our" candidate, Beth Edmonds, did not win a seat, though we certainly tried very hard. The new representatives from the Northeast Region (New England and New York) are:

Gayle Brooks, Connecticut	Regional Director
Denise Fuge, New York	
Sue Lombard, New York	
Sharon Styles, Massachusetts	

They will officially take office at the close of the National Conference in Denver, June 15. We will publish addresses and phones for them in the next newsletter.

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### MAINE NOW PAC --- HELP WANTED

It's that time again - we're looking for volunteers. We have sent our 1986 questionnaire to all the candidates for the Maine State Legislature. If they don't return the questionnaire within a certain period of time, we start calling them up one at a time to get their responses over the phone. Many of you have helped with this effort in the past and we are asking for your help once again. And all you folks who haven't done it yet - it's really easy. You will be provided with a script to read; you will be reimbursed for any toll calls you make; and you can tell us how many calls you'd be willing to make - 5, 10, 15, or more. It is important work that must be done if Maine NOW PAC is going to have accurate information with which to make decisions about endorsements and to produce our biannual candidate analysis.

If you can help, please write or call JoAnne Dauphinee, 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer ME 04412, 989-3306. Let her know 1) who you are; 2) where you live; and 3) how many calls you are willing to make. Don't hesitate...do it today.

**MEDIA ACTION ALERT**

from the Women's Media Project of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund

Letter-writing time, folks....

The "Ad Hoc Committee in Defense of Life", an anti-choice group based in New York City, has targeted the "Cagney and Lacey" program, particularly its November 11, 1985, episode about abortion. The Committee has instructed its members to boycott the products advertised because it believes the program was pro-choice.

Show your support for these same sponsors by calling or writing to the corporate heads. These include:

Beatrice Foods  
James Dutt, Chief Executive Officer  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Orville Redenbacher's popcorn  
Playtex tampons

Cheesbrough-Ponds  
George Goebeler, President  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Vaseline Intensive Care lotion  
Ragu spaghetti sauce

General Motors Corp  
James McDonald, President  
Detroit, MI 48202

Ernest & Julio Gallo Winery  
Julio Gallo, President  
Modesto, CA 95303

Coca-Cola Co.  
Donald Keough, President  
Atlanta, GA 30301

AND, Eastern Airlines has brought back the "Fly Me" message. Their latest ad campaign features a woman clad in a bikini lying on the beach's edge. The slogan above her outstretched body reads, "If you don't like the weather, change it." Eastern has asked all flight attendants to wear the buttons with this slogan on their uniforms.

During the same time, Eastern's management has been locked in contract talks with its employees. According to conversations with the predominantly female flight attendants, they have already taken severe pay cuts during the past year and their disability insurance has been reduced by 50%. In addition, they are paid only for the flight hours worked, which does not include the boarding and deplaning of passengers.

Almost none of the recent press attention has focused on the flight attendants' situation. Tell Eastern that you want them to take women seriously in both their marketing campaigns and in their employment practices. Write to:

Frank Borman, Chief Executive Officer  
Eastern Airlines  
Miami International Airport  
Miami, FL 33148

Don't forget that Eastern will soon be serving Maine with several flights daily at the Portland Jetport.

And, finally....

On Sunday, April 6, Carole Simpson of ABC News hosted an excellent program called, "Sex, Violence, Values: Changing Images." The show had many positive features, but should have been aired during prime time (8-11 PM) rather than at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoon.

Women were responsible for many of the most significant production tasks: Simpson acted as moderator; Barbara Korsen did the voice-over announcing; and Rhoda Lipton produced the hour-long show. Simpson interviewed a wide range of experts and celebrities, including Morgan Fairchild of "Falcon Crest", Frank Zappa, Los Angeles Times media critic Howard Rosenberg, Dr. Thomas Radecki of the National Coalition Against TV Violence and child psychologist Bennett Leventhall. In addition, First Amendment lawyer Alan Dershowitz and attorney Catherine McKinnon participated in a discussion of pornography.

Letters complimenting the show, but complaining about the airtime should be mailed to Roone Arledge, President, ABC News, 7 W. 66th St., New York, NY 10023. Both Simpson and Lipton deserve credit for an informative and necessary program. Write to Simpson at ABC News, 1717 DeSales St. NW, Washington DC 20036; and to Lipton at 1926 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. Transcripts are available for \$3.00 through Journal Graphics, Box 108, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023. State the show's title and air date.



STATE AND CHAPTER CONTACTS:

Marge Clark P.O. Box 133 Brunswick 04011	State Coordinator 729-4378	Karin Sargent PO Box 1123 Kennebunk 04043	York County 985-6206
Isa Silva 477 Hammond St. Bangor 04401	Asst. State Coord. 947-7999	Jean Jackins P.O. Box 133 Brunswick 04011	Brunswick Area 725-7191
Deb Stahler RFD 1 Box 329 Readfield 04355	Treasurer 293-2163	Aimee DesRoches P. O. Box 375 Farmington 04938	Gtr. Farmington 778-9682
Carol Wyckoff Rt. 2 Box 4020 Farmington 04938	Recording Sec. 778-3271	Kennebec Valley NOW PO Box 615 Augusta 04330	293-2163
Beth Edmonds 9 Guptill St Freeport 04032	Membership Sec. 865-3869	Lucy Witt PO Box 475 Bar Harbor 04601	Mt. Desert 288-3105
JoAnne Dauphinee 87 Sunset Strip Brewer 04412	Legis. Coord. 989-3306	Greater Bangor NOW PO Box 8026 Bangor 04401	947-7999
Gtr.Portland NOW P.O. Box 4012 Sta. A Portland 04101	761-1601	Lucie Bauer c/o New Leaf Books Main St. Rockland 04841	Mid-Coast NOW

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JOIN NOW, N O W

Membership Form / Contribution Form

Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____ _____	Chapter: _____ (see above for list)
To become a member: dues: _____ \$35.00 full membership _____ \$15.00 - 34.00 sliding scale based on your ability to pay.	To contribute: \$ _____ to Maine NOW \$ _____ to Maine NOW PAC
Mail To: Maine NOW, PO Box 133, Brunswick ME 04011	

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